

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 NSC-05 SP-02 PM-04 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SCA-01 L-03 /049 W

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R 261215Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1217

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0574

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, US

SUBJECT: USG/GOS RELATIONS

REF: STATE 042688

1. PURSUANT REFTTEL, AMBASSADOR SAW FONMIN MAKKAWI  
FEB 25. AMBASSADOR BEGAN BY STATING THAT DEPT HAD ASKED  
HIM REASSURE GOS THAT USG REMAINS VERY INTERESTED IN US/  
SUDANESE RELATIONS. AS FONMIN AWARE FROM EARLIER CONVERSATION  
WITH AMBASSADOR (KHARTOUM 456) USG HIGHLY APPRECIATES  
VALUABLE ASSISTANCE GOS HAS PROVIDED IN RELEASE KAGNEW 2,  
AS WELL AS ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RELEASE REMAINING  
THREE AMERICAN HOSTAGES. IN THIS GRADUALLY IMPROVING  
ATMOSPHERE DEPT DESIRES CONTINUE THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZING  
USG/GOS RELATIONSHIPS. ACCORDINGLY, A MODEST \$25,000  
SPECIAL SELF-HELP PROGRAM (SSHP) HAS JUST BEEN AUTHORIZED  
FOR USE DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING ON SEPT 30, 1976.  
WHILE ADMITTEDLY THE AMOUNT WAS SMALL, AMBASSADOR  
STRESSED THAT THIS IS FIRST INSTANCE IN WHICH DIRECT  
BILATERAL ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN APPROVED  
FOR GOS SINCE JUNE 1974. AS SUCH, IT SHOULD BE VIEWED  
AS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATING OUR GOOD WILL AND AS POINTING  
DIRECTION IN WHICH WE HOPE OUR RELATIONSHIP WILL MOVE  
IN FUTURE.

2. MAKKAWI THANKED AMBASSADOR. LATTER  
OUTLINED HOW SSHP MIGHT WORK BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE  
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WITH IT AS EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT TOOL IN MAURITIUS.

AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT WA WISHED UNDERTAKE PROJECTS ONLY AFTER FULL COORDINATION WITH GOS AND ASKED WHAT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE CHANNEL TO ASSURE THIS. MAKKAWI SAID HE WOULD EXAMINE QUESTION WITH HIS COLLEAGUES AND LET US KNOW.

3. IN EVENING CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN USEC MIRGHANI FEB 25, AMBASSADOR BRIEFED HIM IN SIMILAR TERMS. MIRGHANI AGREED THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE SOME LOCUS OF COORDINATION FOR PROGRAM WITHIN GOS. MOREOVER, INDEPENDENT INITIATION PROJECTS BY EMBASSY DIRECTLY WITH PRIVATE SUDANESE WOULD NOT BE WELCOMED. MIRGHANI NOTED SMALL SIZE OF PROPOSED FUND AND SAID HE DID NOT THINK PLANNING COMMISSION WOULD BE APPROPRIATE COORDINATING BODY. HE SPECULATED THAT MINISTRY SOCIAL AFFAIRS MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE AGENCY TO HANDLE SUCH MODEST INPUTS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO GO TO VARIETY OF SMALL PROJECTS OF TYPE WHICH OF INTEREST TO SOCIAL AFFAIRS.

3. COMMENT. NEITHER MAKKAWI NOR MIRGHANI REACTED WITH ENTHUSIASM TO PROPOSED PROGRAM BUT THIS MAY IN PART BE DUE TO THEIR UNFAMILIARITY WITH IT. FACT IS, HOWEVER, SENIOR SUDANESE OFFICIALS HAVE INVARIABLY REFLECTED MORE INTEREST IN STEPS WHICH WOULD HAVE PSYCHOLOGICAL OR SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS THAN IN SPECIFIC PROGRAMS WHICH THEY NO DOUBT ASSUME WOULD CARRY ONLY VERY MODEST FINANCING. BREWER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, HOSTAGES, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976KHARTO00574  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760073-0063  
**From:** KHARTOUM  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760211/aaaaaisr.tel  
**Line Count:** 87  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 42688  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 31 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** USG/GOS RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SU, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006